

In the Claims:

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A method of fastening an auxiliary joining element to a sheet metal work-piece wherein the auxiliary joining element includes a foot, comprising the steps of:

providing a die having a recess defined by a wall disposed in said die, wherein said wall is interrupted by die parts being movable radially inwardly of said wall;

retaining the sheet metal work-piece over said recess;
depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece thereby deforming the sheet-metal workpiece into said recess and holding said die parts radially inwardly of said wall thereby simultaneously deforming said sheet metal work-piece into the foot and forming spaced undercuts into the foot for retaining the auxiliary joining element to the sheet metal work-piece.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further including the step of forcing portions of the sheet metal work-piece spaced from the undercut into the undercut.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said step of depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece is further defined by forming wall sections into the ~~sheer~~ sheet metal work-piece generally parallel to a depressing direction of the foot.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further including the step of forcing said die parts radially outwardly while withdrawing the foot from said cavity thereby releasing the undercuts from said die parts.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said step of forming undercuts in the foot is further defined by forming at least three undercuts in the foot.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said step of depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece is further defined by providing the auxiliary joining element having an auxiliary shoulder and depressing the auxiliary shoulder downwardly thereby forcing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 25, wherein said step of providing the auxiliary joining element having an auxiliary shoulder is further defined by locating the auxiliary shoulder adjacent the sheet metal work-piece.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said step of retaining the sheet metal work-piece over said recess is further defined by depressing two sheet metal-pieces over said recess.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein said step of depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece is further defined by depressing the foot into two sheet metal work-pieces.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for fastening an auxiliary joining element to a sheet metal work-piece, comprising:

a plunger movable in pressing direction for deforming the sheet metal work-piece;

a die defining a recess with a peripheral wall being generally parallel to said pressing direction of said plunger and having movable wall sections spaced around said peripheral wall and being movable inwardly thereby forming an undercut in the auxiliary joining element and the sheet metal work-piece, wherein said plunger includes a holder adapted to engage the auxiliary joining element for driving the auxiliary holding element into the sheet meal work-piece.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 24, wherein said recess defines an axis and said peripheral wall disposed between said movable wall sections is generally parallel to said axis.